



SPIRIT TIMES

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It's hammer time



Photo by Senior Airman Leila Hemenway

Members of the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Structures shop repair windows of a mock dining facility during their bivouac exercise. Bivouac means an encampment for the night, usually under little or no shelter. This exercise allows 509th CES members to practice setting up infrastructure in a bare base location, similar to situations they can encounter on deployments.

Wing earns Award

By 2nd Lt. Candace Cutrufo

Public Affairs

Whiteman's 509th Bomb Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional achievement during the period of June 1, 2003 to May 31, 2005.

The Secretary of the Air Force awards the honor to units that have distinguished themselves through exceptionally meritorious service or outstanding achievement that clearly sets the unit above and apart from similar units.

"The 509th's selection for this prestigious award further validates my first impressions of the wing: hard work, talented people and a sense of teamwork and mission focus that is far beyond the norm," said Col. Eric Single, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander.

Among many reasons for Whiteman's selection were the unit's contributions in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, in support of which more than 1,600 Airmen were deployed.

Whiteman was also noticed for the July 2004 deployment to Andersen AFB, Guam, where 85 Airmen supported global power combat training sorties during Exercise Coronet Bugle 49.

During the award period, Team Whiteman was the Air Force's first-ever Air Expeditionary Force aggregation initiative as Air Combat Command's sole test wing in the Midwest region.

"The 509th continues to excel despite decreases in manpower and increases in OPSTEMPO, logging an impressive list of exceptional accomplishments," Colonel Single said. "Airmen at every level can ensure we continue to excel by instilling their sense of pride and teamwork in our newcomers as they become a part of the Whiteman team."

All Whiteman troops stationed here at least one day during the award period are entitled to wear the AFOUA ribbon.

Those who earned the award and are currently stationed at Whiteman do not need to take any action, as the Military Personnel Flight will perform a mass record update.

Force Shaping: Air Force's plan to cut thousands of officers

There are many questions surrounding the current Air Force Officer Force Shaping Board.

The following "Q and A" is designed to answer some of the more common questions about force shaping.

Q: What is the intent of the force shaping board?

A: To reduce the overage officer year groups (2000-2004) by separating officers in excess Air Force Specialty Codes. These

actions will lessen the current excess junior officer spike, alleviating the need to reduce future accessions to compensate for the excess.

Q: Why is the Air Force trying to downsize when it seems like so many AFSCs are over worked and under-manned?

A: This effort isn't being driven by a desire to downsize the force, but rather to shape it.

The Air Force has done an exhaustive study to identify AFSCs that are manned above its authorized requirement. These are the areas where the Air Force is looking to generate additional separations. It's important to understand that a force shaping effort doesn't mean the Air Force is "fat." There are AFSCs and year groups, particularly those with 12 to 15 years time-in-ser-

vice, where it is significantly under-manned.

However, having too many officers in relation to the total force, means the service is spending more dollars than it has in the budget and that can not continue indefinitely.

Q: Why did the Air Force over access in the 2000-2004 year groups?

A: The Air Force suffered an unprecedented recruiting problem during the 1990s. Recruiting has traditionally not been an issue for the Air Force, but a robust economy late in the 1990s had the service falling short of recruiting goals for the first time since 1979.

As a result, the Air Force took in thousands of people using skill mix assumptions that are no longer valid. The service now has several career fields over-manned,

Force Shaping Fast Facts

■ There will be a "Force Shaping Spread the word" briefing 10:30 a.m. Monday in the base theater. This is mandatory for all individuals who are eligible for the force shaping board for the 2002-03 year group.

■ The briefing is highly recommended for the 2004-05 year groups as this will likely affect this group in the future.

■ Officers separated as a result of a force shaping board may find opportunities to continue to serve in uniform in the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve via the "Palace Chase" program, or in the U.S. Army via the "Blue to Green" program.

■ There are also many opportunities for officers to join government service and serve as Air Force civilians.

while suffering shortages in others.

Q: How about new accessions?

A: The Air Force is still "hiring," and plans to enlist 30,750 and commission 4,910 Airmen in FY 2006

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The Officer Force Shaping Board will only affect second lieutenants, first lieutenants and captains in the 2000-2004 year group



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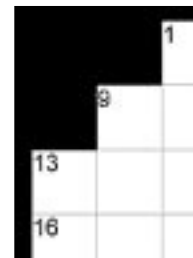
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For more information, call the *Spirit Times* office at 687-6133, e-mail: spirit.times@whiteman.af.mil, fax us at 687-7948, or write to us at:
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Air Force Quiz

What does the acronym S-A-L-U-T-E stand for and when is it used?

9er Line

Dial 687-3119 or e-mail
9r.Line@whiteman.af.mil

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SALUTE stands for size, activity, location, unit, time and equipment. It is used when reporting enemy activity.

Air Force Quiz answer

Commander's Corner

Outstanding unit,
award winning *Spirit*

By Col. Chris Miller

509th Bomb Wing commander

EVERY ONE OF US – “CFC”. We’ve all heard it if we’ve been in the Air Force more than a year. When I think of the acronym, I think of the C as **“Caring”** ... for all kinds of people, including the hungry, the homeless, the sick, the disabled, children and families in need, for other pressing needs that aren’t met other ways. It’s very simple: as Air Force members, we have resources that many do not. CFC makes it simple to **act** on the giving hearts many of us have. CFC’s payroll deduction form is as easy as it gets.

When you give through the CFC, you care for people right here in our community and around the world – people who probably will never know you helped. If you think you can’t afford to give, that’s O.K. . . . but, if you can, please consider what a positive impact **you** can have! If you haven’t done so already, look through this year’s catalog of caring. It’s filled with

more than 1,700 local, national and international charities that need support.

When you find one or more that interest you, fill out the form, contact your CFC representative and *make a difference!*

SHAPING OUR FORCE – The Air Force currently has an excess of nearly 4,000 officers. This overage, especially in our company grade ranks, limits the full development of these officers and keeps the Air Force from filling other jobs with the right people.

In an effort to correct this imbalance and to properly shape its future force, the Air Force will convene an annual board to evaluate officers for continued service at their three-year point. To explain the Force Shaping Board Process and to get the facts out to our officer corps, I will be visiting many ACC bases between now and the end of the month.

This Monday, I’ll meet with Whiteman officers who will be involved in the process. The Air Force values their service and that of their

peers across the world, and having to separate good officers is something the Air Force does not take lightly. I understand that and I’m committed to keeping you and the rest of our Airmen informed about issues that affect your military careers.

Remember the Air Force has gone through “force shaping” in times past as the needs of the nation dictated changes in the size of the service. What’s important for America is that we have a balanced force of officer and enlisted Airmen who can meet the missions of today and tomorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS 509th BOMB WING! – WOW! The 509th Bomb Wing has earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. This award is made by the Secretary of the Air Force to units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service and outstanding achievement. From June 2003 to May 2005, the 509th

Bomb Wing deployed more than 1,600 Airmen from 24 squadrons in support of global combat operations. You made B-2 bomber forward presence a reality and proved that we be can expeditionary and deliver combat airpower, any time and any place.

But it’s not only what we do during wartime. This award is the culmination of the thousands of things you do each day to make our base a better, more effective place to live and work. I say “thanks” often because you do such great things; this Air Force level recognition proves our Air Force sees your outstanding performance the same way I do.

Thanks and congratulations for a job well done!

Fast Facts

The 509th Bomb Wing's Air Force Outstanding Unit Award track record:

Year	Open Date	Close Date
2005	June 1, 2003	May 31, 2005
2001	June 1, 1999	May 31, 2001
1999	June 1, 1997	May 31, 1999
1998	June 1, 1995	May 31, 1997

Find satisfaction in demanding times

By Col. Bob Dulong

509th Maintenance Group commander

Wow. Here in the bomber capital of the world — Whiteman AFB — that short exclamation barely describes the huge level of effort seen throughout the base. Every facet of Team Whiteman significantly impacts the international security arena as we blaze new trails in B-2 Spirit history.

While we are very busy people, it is important for us to maintain our perspective in order to be prepared for whatever missions we are tasked with in the future. We should periodically check our perspectives and review the key elements to our individual successes and our preparedness for the uncertain future. I would suggest to you those elements must include, fitness, family and fun.

Fitness is an important element of our readiness; our ability to accept any task our military leadership may send to us. We all understand the need to maintain fitness, yet it is the one element of our lives we sacrifice when we get busy. Fitness has many facets, but the most important is maintaining our health.

Our workload during current times, with all the uncertainty of the Global War on Terrorism, challenges us to find the time to conduct our own personal physical fitness routines. Many times, we complain we are too tired from our workload to conduct our workout. However, fitness actually increases your stamina to meet the many requirements in your life, especially during very challenging times.

We are fortunate on Whiteman AFB to have phenomenal facilities — from work center fitness rooms, to the base fitness

center and the Skelton Park trail. Fitness not only prepares you for your Air Force mission, it also prepares you to deal with the many other facets of your life.

The “family” dynamic certainly is impacted by the demands of our high operations tempo. One of our primary motivators for serving in the military is our family. Whether we refer to family as Mom/Dad, sister/brother, or spouse/children, we do what we do to allow our families to continue enjoying the many freedoms we so cherish. We must work hard to maintain our focus on our families as we work very demanding work hours, deployments, and short-notice changes to our taskings. President Bush frequently expresses how deeply grateful our nation is to all who serve in uniform and he singled out military families for the hardships they are enduring.

Communication is the crucial link to help our families endure these trying times. Within the guidelines of operations and communications security, we need to keep our families informed on our participation in this chapter of bomber and aviation history. We have outstanding resources, such as the Family Support Center, Services Squadron facilities, and Chaplains, to name just a few, that are available to help our families deal with the stresses associated with our military lifestyles.

We need to communicate the availability of these resources to our family members and remind them of their access to those resources. Encourage your fami-

ly members to visit these agencies and explore options available to help them through these fast-paced times.

Often, these support agencies can facilitate problem solving and help us maintain a healthy family dynamic. Our military preparedness depends on that healthy dynamic. The final key to an individual’s success during these very demanding times is to find satisfaction in what we are accomplishing. Your perspective is important and that’s where the “fun” comes in. Maintain your sense of humor and be sure to point out the lighter side of these trying times to your teammates.

Working with Team Whiteman professionals offers a great opportunity for fun because each day presents new challenges that demand creative solutions to the day’s problems. Note that the individuals who are having “fun” with what they’re doing are usually the most creative and productive. Fun generates enthusiasm and spirit, qualities that are evident in Team Whiteman. Despite the serious nature of the business we’re in, maintaining a “fun” perspective will help you complete this marathon effort of mission accomplishment.

Thank you for the great job you are doing for Team Whiteman, our Air Force and our nation. You should be very proud of your contributions to this important operation, one that will certainly be recorded in bomber and aviation history. Please keep up the good work and remember the three important key elements: Fitness, Family and Fun!

Wing's quarterly award winners announced

By Senior Airman Leila Hemenway

509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

The 509th Bomb Wing honored the third quarter award winners during a breakfast at Mission's End Oct. 28. The winners are:

Company Grade Officer

Capt. Michael Belardo, 394th Combat Training Squadron, is the Company Grade Officer of the Quarter.

Captain Belardo led the wing's first T-38 four-ship formation flyby in more than a year by building programs from scratch for this years POW/MIA ceremony. He was recognized by the 509th Bomb Wing Commander for perfect timing and precision.

Captain Belardo was hand-picked as an investigation officer, and deftly recovered two crypto devices that prevented compromise of crucial communications security materials.

Captain Belardo is actively engaged as an Air Force mentor with Air Force Cadet Office Mentor Action Program to prepare future Air Force leaders.

Captain Belardo is working on his master's program with a 4.0 grade point average.



Senior NCO

Master Sgt. Gerald Crowley, 509th Operations Support Squadron, is the Senior NCO of the Quarter.

Sergeant Crowley brought the air traffic control simulator usage to the highest in Air Combat Command by building 130 scenarios for 14 trainees, which led to 12 certified controllers.

Sergeant Crowley secured \$11,000 to fund interactive technology for air traffic control front-load training, and reduced 25 percent of class time.

Sergeant Crowley completed his Community College of the Air Force degree in airway science with a 3.8 grade point average. He also graduated the Senior NCO Academy by correspondence with an 89 percent average.

Sergeant Crowley was elected as the 509th OSS Top 4 president, which is the squadron's first ever enlisted development program to mentor future Air Force leaders.



NCO

Tech. Sgt. David Hodges, 509th Mission Support Squadron, is the NCO of the Quarter.

Sergeant Hodges secured \$112,000 from Air Combat Command to purchase equipment for a professional enhancement course, which was the highest funding in ACC history.

Sergeant Hodges is a senior adviser to Whiteman Airmen's Council and Airmen Against Drunk Driving to prepare Airmen for future NCO responsibilities.

He also organized 21 projects completed by first term airmen course students with 1,099 hours of community service.

Sergeant Hodges organized a base Katrina relief effort trailer, collecting 481 cases of bottled water in five days



for the Red Cross.

Sergeant Hodges completed three classes toward his CCAF degree with a 3.8 grade point average.

Airman

Airman 1st Class Zachery Teague, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, is the Airman of the Quarter.

Airman Teague changed three worn tires on the *Spirit of Indiana*, which earned zero defect quality assurance evaluation during follow up.

He also assisted the 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron with preparation of weapons rotary launcher assembly with a 100 percent successful nuclear test sortie.

Airman Teague provided U.S. Space and Missile Defense Commander a tour and was coined by Army General Anderson for his professionalism.

Airman Teague mastered his 5-level career development course achieving a score of 94 percent.

Airman Teague, is an active Big Brothers and Big Sisters volunteer and conducted a bowl-a-thon fundraiser and collected more than \$1,800.

Honor Guard

Airman 1st Class Travis Hughes, 509th AMXS, is the Honor Guard member of the Quarter.

Airman Hughes was responsible for the Alpha team training, and his effort increased the team's quarterly evaluations by more than 8 percent.

Airman Hughes led the colors team at military appreciation day at Kansas City Royals stadium which was viewed by more than 20,000 spectators.

He also honored those who are not forgotten by participating in the POW/MIA 21 gun salute ceremony.

Airman Hughes is working toward a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, completing 18 credit hours with a 4.0 grade point average.

As a dedicated community member, Airman Hughes led Knob Noster and Concordia city cleanups and removed more than 600 pounds of garbage.



Volunteer

Jessica Bogedain, wife of Senior Airman Bogedain, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, is the volunteer of the Quarter.

Mrs. Bogedain is the chairperson for membership, sunshine and welcoming committee of the Whiteman Enlisted Spouses' Club.

In this position, Mrs. Bogedain creates and maintains membership forms, club roster, member directory, and brochure and assembles and delivers welcome packets to new spouses.

Mrs. Bogedain volunteered more than 120 hours during this quarter and coordinated 20 different meals.

She spent over 30 hours in new members' homes helping them with their transition to Whiteman, and she has made four different meals to help out various families.

Mrs. Bogedain also baby-sat other members' kids for over 40 hours, so their parents can help out the Air Force Ball.



Laborer/Craftsman

John Luke, 509th CES, is the Laborer/Craftsman of the Quarter.

Luke tested an A-10 and T-38 aircraft maintenance facilities' lighting protection system and static ground systems by performing 320 continuity tests, and protected aircraft and support equipment from damaging lightning strikes.

As electrical cut-off team crew leader, Mr. Luke disconnected and cleared more than 20 condemned housing units for the electrically safe and eliminated demolition hazard.

He was also hand-picked by the Air Combat Command Inspector General to augment future ACC Unit Compliance and Nuclear Surety Inspections.

Mr. Luke learned the latest safety procedures and gained new perspective on hazards by attending a 16-hour electrical safety course.

As an adult Sunday school teacher at Blue Springs Freewill Baptist Church, Mr. Luke mentors 20 young adults. He also spent 35 hours to replace FBC's central air cooling system to provide them cool air during the hot weather.



Specialist/Manager

Jill LaGrow, 509th Maintenance Group, is the Specialist/Manager Civilian of the Quarter.

Mrs. LaGrow flawlessly executed the maintenance group's \$6.06 million operation and maintenance budget and \$81.4 million flying-hour budget with a 100 percent mission success.

Mrs. LaGrow coordinated last-minute headquarter directed benchstock fill by monitoring supply targets and executed \$600,000 in 2.5 hours.

She also harmonized financial paperwork for Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., and Whiteman's training contract, transferring \$10,000 and training 20 people.

As women's ministry president at a local church, Mrs. LaGrow develops programs and initiates community outreach program.

Mrs. LaGrow completed three credit hours toward a master's degree in business administration.



Associate

Connie Morton, 509th Services Squadron, is the Associate Civilian of the Quarter.

Ms. Morton supervised planning, delivery and evaluation of innovative youth programs to more than 850 youths this quarter. She also administered a \$27,000 Boys and Girls Grant to provide innovative programs to Whiteman's youth.

Ms. Morton organized three on-base 4-H clubs with more than 75 youth and parents participating in projects and community service. She also coordinated a Pre-Teen One-to-One project by adopting a one-mile stretch of highway and her efforts garnered \$500,000.

Ms. Morton volunteers as a part of Knob Noster High School Band Booster Club by assisting with travel and fundraisers.



Team members honored November

Team Whiteman recognized 80 promotees at a ceremony Monday at Mission's End. They are:



AIRMEN

Jason Farley,
509th Maintenance Squadron
Graham Hintz,
509th Operations Support Squadron
Richard Davis and
Howard Kennedy III,
509th Security Forces Squadron
Ahijah Adams VI,
509th Services Squadron



AIRMEN 1ST CLASS

Jordan Acord, Joshua Nelson, and
Jeremy Young,
509th Civil Engineer Squadron
Sara Nass, Jared Newport and **Jesse Reynolds,**
509th Communications Squadron
Dennis Taylor and **Matthew Dickman,**
509th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Brett Vogel
509th MXS
Tracy Valero,
509th Medical Support Squadron
Matthew Corn,
509th OSS
Matthew Atkinson, Erica Van Cleave,
Jessica Pierce, Kevin Bateman,
Maegan Buchacher, Mark Vollert and
Melanie Garrison,
509th SFS



SENIOR AIRMEN

Tara Martin,
394th Combat Training Squadron
Christina Day III, Kallven Morgan and
Michael Duncan,
509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Kurtiss Wernette, Larry Hendricks Jr.,
Lattrice Goldsby and
Robin Cunningham,
509th CES
Justin Thompson,
509th CS
Denis Jacob and **Erin Saxsma,**
509th LRS
Christina Curran,
509th Maintenance Operations Squadron
Corey Curl, Erick Camacho,
Jacob O'Connor, Justin Heupel,
Meghan Howell, Nicholas Leuschen and
Philip Walls,
509th MXS
Brian Koch,
509th Medical Operations Squadron
Felecia Hollins, Kerry Mills,
Stacie Heupel and
Shereka McCracken,
509th OSS
Andrew Drew, Brian Potter,
Christopher Pense, Janelle Henson and
Stephen Cantrell,
509th SFS
Ebonee Lane,
509th SVS



STAFF SERGEANTS

Matthew Swank,
393rd Bomb Squadron
Anthony Carrillo and
Christopher Long,
509th AMXS
Jacob Marsh and
Mark Grantham,
509th CS
Dan Earley,
509th LRS
Derina Neyra,
509th Munitions Squadron
Curtis Williams,
509th OSS
Mark Prichard and
Ryan Renner,
509th SFS
Gricelda Rubio,
Detachment 12 Air Combat Command Training
Support Squadron



TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

Robert Carr,
509th AMXS
Angela Stone and
Robyn Johnson,
509th LRS
Danny Shepherd Jr.,
509th Maintenance Group
Jason Parmenter,
509th MXS
John Bartlow and **Michael Dixon,**
509th MUNS
Michelle Mccann,
509th SVS



MASTER SERGEANTS

James Tuggle,
509th AMXS
Douglas Williams,
509th LRS
Robert Goddard IV,
509th MXG
Russell Marroon and
Scott Lique,
509th MXS
James Settle III,
509th MUNS



SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT

Kenneth Meierhofer,
509th CES

Outstanding CDC end of course scores

Nine Airmen who earned outstanding career development course test results were recognized at a ceremony Monday at Mission's End. They are:

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— **Staff Sgt. Jesse Fenton**
509th Maintenance Squadron
— **Airman 1st Class James Jordan**
509th MXS
— **Staff Sgt. Christopher Tener**
509th Security Forces Squadron

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— **Staff Sgt. Lisa Castillo** —
509th Services Squadron
— **Airman 1st Class Christopher Clark**
509th Civil Engineer Squadron
— **Airman 1st Class Daniel Moore**
509th CES
— **Airman 1st Brian Verka**
509th Communications Squadron

— **Staff Sgt. Yuhan Joseph** —
509th Medical Support Squadron
— **Airman 1st Class Aqeel Mitchell** —
509th MXS

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LSET to visit Whiteman

By 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen
Public Affairs

The Air Combat Command Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team visits Whiteman Nov. 14-18. The 35-member team will evaluate the wing's maintenance and logistics functions which typically reside in the 509th Maintenance Group and 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron here.

The team is visiting to ensure standardized compliance, identify benchmark programs, and validate deficiencies throughout units' maintenance and logistics organizations, said 1st Lt. Scott Orme, 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

"The LSET is making sure everyone is following the prescribed guidance set out by our leaders, which not only affects our mission but keeps everyone safe," Lieutenant Orme said.

The team will evaluate the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 509th Maintenance Squadron, 509th MOS, 509th Munitions Squadron, 509th Maintenance Group Quality Assurance and Weapons Standardization sections, and the 509th LRS.

The team will use Air Force Technical Orders, Air Force and MAJCOM directives and local policies as guidance for the inspection. LSET members will use the data to conduct personal evaluations, quality verifications inspections and other special inspections. Lieutenant Orme said they will do over the shoulder inspections as well as check completed work.

Squadrons have been preparing for the past few months by going through all their programs and records to make sure everything is in compliance, and sections have been evaluating each other to ensure nothing is overlooked, Lieutenant Orme said.

To prepare for the visit, Lieutenant Orme suggests units visit the LSET Web site, <https://a4.acc.af.mil/lgq/LSET/LSETHome.html>. The site has applicable technical data and every LSET report for the past three years. The reports include every write-up given during that time.

"I consider all the write ups listed on the Web site freebies," Lieutenant Orme said. "The folks from LSET are giving these to us and so we shouldn't be written up for the same things that happened at other bases or during Whiteman's previous LSET."

Whiteman's last LSET inspection was February 2004. The LSET visits on a 15 to 30 month cycle and the inspection provides Air Combat Command and the wing leadership an independent evaluation of a unit's adherence to technical data, policies and directives, Lieutenant Orme said.

"This inspection will let our leadership know how well we perform our daily tasks and will show the amount of pride we have in our work," Lieutenant Orme said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Neo Martin

Airman 1st Class Marc Warner, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron, tightens the H frame on a police car in preparation for the Logistics Standardization and Evaluation Team visit.

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Do you, or does someone you know, have a story idea you'd like to see in the paper?

Let our staff know about it.

For more information, call 687-6133 or e-mail spirit.times@whiteman.af.mil.

Pros and cons:

Electronic checking systems has its ups and downs

By Staff Sgt. Barbara Rollins

509th Bomb Wing Legal Office

Late last year a new law nicknamed "Check 21" went into effect. The Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act is legislation authorizing financial institutions to process "substitute checks," a high-quality paper reproduction of both sides of an original check.

Each substitute check is created from an electronic image of an original paper check. A substitute check is the legal equivalent of the original check and includes all the information contained on the original check.

The purpose of Check 21 is to ease check processing and to improve the overall efficiency of the nation's payment system.

The force behind Check 21 came after the attacks Sept. 11, 2001, which disrupted the nation's check collection and forwarding process. Today's national check clearing system relies on paper-processing and physical transport, making it

susceptible to weather, natural disasters, terrorist activity and other potential disruptions.

Several issues have been raised concerning the ease of forging electronic checks. Bank security procedures can't stop all fraud, which may include printing and altering checks or obtaining account numbers used to arrange for payments from your account.

You can help prevent fraud by: promptly reviewing your bank statement each month and immediately reporting any unauthorized transactions. Monitor your account more regularly online or through telephone banking programs at your bank.

Making timely notification of a problem can limit potential liability, stop fraud and assist in an investigation.

Check 21 is an extensive new federal law that takes away the ability to get back original paper checks. If you must prove a disputed payment and the bank has given you a substitute canceled check and not the original canceled check, don't worry. As long as the substitute check meets Check 21's standards it will serve as proof of payment.

And if a bank's substitute check falls short of those standards, Check 21 provides warranties and remedies to protect parties involved in the transaction.

Fast Fact

- Under the check clearing for the 21st Century Act, checks are now processed electronically.
- Financial transactions now process almost instantly, so adequate funds are needed when a check is processed.
- Review financial records often to ensure all transactions are accurate.

Under this law, streamlining the electronic check processing means your checks will clear faster, including weekends and holidays.

Consumers may be more likely to bounce checks and may find themselves paying higher bank fees.

Army Air Force Exchange Service instituted the instant check clearing process under Check 21 in August and Airman need to be aware of this change.

A check deposited in a bank generally travels by airplane and truck until it reaches the paying bank, typically about one or two days later. As a result of Check 21, more checks will be processed electronically and faster.

That means you need to have enough money in your account when you write a check or you will run the risk of having checks bounce, with fees typically in the range of \$15 to \$30 per check.

In addition, faster check processing as a result of Check 21 may also mean that you may have less time to place a "stop payment" on a check you've written.

For more details on Check 21, visit www.consumersunion.org/finance/ckclear1002.htm

OFFICER, from Page 1

Q: How will force shaping affect the training pipelines?

A: Pipelines will continue to operate normally; some will do so at a decreased level.

Q: How will the force shaping board be conducted?

A: All eligible officers will have a retention recommendation form completed on them by their leadership and their records will meet a central selection board at Air Force Personnel Center.

Q: Will all AFSCs be considered by the force shaping board?

A: No. Because the pilot, navigator, air battle manager, space and missile, combat rescue officers, special tactics officers, and developmental engineer career fields (2002

year group only) are already at their sustainment levels.

Q: Will the board be conducted by AFSC?

A: The board will evaluate officers based on their core identification.

Q: Why isn't the Air Force providing any incentives?

A: By law the Air Force is not allowed to provide any monetary incentives with the exception of those officers who have over six years of total active service as of Sep. 29, 2006.

Q: What kind of assistance will you provide to members leaving the service?

A: All separating officers are qualified for transition assistance programs provided by family support centers.

Q: Explain "double stratification"

A: Each senior rater is required to stratify officers one of two ways. First, the officer is numerically ranked against peers, within the same year group, for that particular unit, regardless of career field.

Next, the officer is ranked against peers, within the same year group, compared to the officers in their career field for that unit.

For example, if the senior rater is also a wing commander, a communications officer in the 2002 year group is first ranked against all 2002 officers in the wing, followed by a ranking against all 2002 communications officers in the wing.

Spirit Spotlights



... on **Airman 1st Class Anna Cole**,
509 Civil Engineer Squadron, Driver: 9 Lives

Airman 1st Class Nicholas Fenison,
509 Communications Squadron, CQ: 1 Call

Airman 1st Class Kerisha Jackson,
509 OSS, CQ: 20 Calls

Lt. Col. Jeff Johnson,
509 MDOS, Driver: 18 Lives

Melissa Klinkner,
509 BW, Driver: 1 Life

Airman 1st Class Peter Koontz,
509 LRS, CQ: 2 Calls

Senior Airman Cendy Mascrier,
509 LRS, Driver: 3 Lives

Senior Airman Anthony Muller,
509 CS, Driver: 6 Lives

2nd Lt. Mary Olsen,
509 BW, CQ: 5 Calls, Driver: 6 Lives

Capt. Kathleen O'Neil,
509 MSS, Driver: 3 Lives

Master Sgt. Linda Price,
442 MG, Driver: 4 Lives

Tech. Sgt. Shannon Robbins,
509 MSS, CQ: 1 Call

Master Sgt. April Sanders,
509 MDOS, CQ: 3 Calls

Senior Airman Erin Saxsma,
509 LRS, CQ: 6 Calls

These members of Airmen Against Drunk Driving received 38 calls in October and gave 50 rides to their fellow Airmen and base members.

This year AADD members saved 2,067 lives as of Nov. 1.



A sample container is weighed before a sample is tested for contaminants by a member of the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron. The water is tested for acidity, alkalinity, temperature, suspended solids, metals, cyanides, chemical oxygen demand and biochemical oxygen demand. The water tests are done at various stages of the treatment process to monitor and ensure the plant is running efficiently, and within Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

Fast Facts

- All of the base's wastewater is piped to the wastewater treatment plant.
- The first step in treating the water is to grind the solid waste and oxygenate the water so the solid waste drops to the bottom of the tank.
- The plant processes .5 to 2.19 million gallons of water daily.
- Water samples are taken from the plant's outgoing flow, 100 yards up and downstream, and one mile downstream to monitor the facility's environmental impact.
- Whiteman's facility removes up to 98 percent of impurities. It is the most effective trickle filter plant in Missouri.
- "Many of the innovative ideas and state-of-the-art treatment processes at the facility have come from the creative minds of our operating staff. This highly-motivated team repeatedly is recognized as the best wastewater operation in the Air Combat Command." - Darrell Takett, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.
- For proper disposal of hazardous waste, call 509th CES Environmental at 687-6262 or 687-6243.

Robert Sopko, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, works on the trickle filter. The trickle filter is an six-foot-deep rock filled basin that is 102 feet in diameter. The rocks are covered in a zoogeal film giving microscopic organisms that clean the water a place to live. Using the trickle filter classifies the plant as a biological water treatment facility. After being filtered, some of the water is recycled through the filter, some is sent back to the beginning of the process and the rest is sent to the final settling tank. The solid waste is piped to the digestive building.

Waste water works



Paul Tracy, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, checks the hopper on the press. After sludge is broken down in the digestive building, it's pumped to the press building and blended with a polymer mix to coagulate. The thickened sludge is then run through the press to squeeze out water. The water is sent back to the head works to restart the entire process. The pressed sludge, called cake, resembles dirt and is then spread behind the plant. Due to the cake's nature, after it's spread the application site is restricted for a minimum of one year.



Chris Wallen, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, checks a gauge in the pipe room. The pipe room is the heart of the digestive building. The digestive building works like a huge stomach to breakdown the sludge. The temperature in the digesters is maintained at 100 degrees Fahrenheit to sustain the anaerobic organisms needed to breakdown the sludge. One of the types of micro-organisms eats the inorganic waste and produce organic acids. The other type eats the organic acid and produces methane gas which is burned off. If the temperature and conditions are not properly maintained, the methane producers die, resulting in an acid build up.

Team Whiteman Community

Legal assistance available

Airmen can stop by the legal office for wills, powers of attorney and other legal documents. The legal office legal assistance hours are 8-10 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. Powers of attorney and notary service is available 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekdays. For more details, call the legal office at 687-6809.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Pre-separation briefing set

A pre-separation briefing for people separating from the military begins at 9 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight, family support center, Reserves and finance will provide information. The MPF separations and retirements office schedules members for this briefing. For more information, call them at 687-1500 or 6720.

Class helps new parents

Expectant parents can gain information and resources at the Bundles for Babies class at 8 a.m. Tuesday. Partici-

pants will receive free Time Life books and layette bundles. Reservations are required.

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This briefing covers information about preparing for deployment and programs available to family members who are left behind.

Class helps with move

A mandatory smooth move seminar for people planning to move stateside or overseas in the near future begins at 1 p.m. Thursday. Facilitators will discuss the financial benefits associated with moving and provide a variety of useful resources. PCS orders are not necessary. Spouses are encouraged to attend. Reservations are required.

Special needs meeting set

A forum for parents, teachers and others who care for special needs children is set for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the family support center. Learn about the support and community services available and meet others who understand the challenges facing special needs families. Free child care will be provided. Contact Delia Everett 287-3704 or Jennifer Greenslit 233-2493 for more info or to RSVP for child care.

Hearts Apart party



Courtesy photo

Jessica Kochman and her children Matt, and Rowan (right) attended the Hearts Apart Halloween Party Oct. 22 at the family support center. Sixteen people attended the party which included pumpkin carving. Hearts Apart is a FSC sponsored program that helps families who are separated from loved ones due to deployments or remote assignments. The next party is scheduled for December. For more information, call the FSC at 687-7132.

Halloween fun



Photo by Senior Airman Leila Hemenway

Airman 1st Class Jackie Wilson, 509th Communications Squadron, plays “Ghostly Golf” with her daughter, Caitlyn. More than 500 people attended the Boo Bash at the community center Oct. 29. The event had several games, prizes, a haunted house and refreshments for base members. The Boo Bash was sponsored by the 509th Services Squadron and the Whiteman Airmen’s Council sponsored the haunted house.

Native American History Month

By Capt. Tony Wickman
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

1. Wear out
5. Stork like wading birds
9. Clock in at work
11. Soul
13. Unblemished meal
14. So soon
16. Iron or Industrial
17. Endeavored
19. War from 1914-1918, in short
20. Horse doc
21. Native American people formerly inhabiting U.S. Southwest
22. Quick rest
23. Messy one
25. Native American people formerly inhabiting U.S. Southeast
28. MDs workplaces
29. Native American people inhabiting U.S. Southwest and Mexico
31. Attacked
33. USAF intel org.
34. Hockey great Bobby
35. Custard filled pastry
38. Perspires
41. Burn residue
42. ___ _ time; single file
44. Cuts grass
46. Slalom
47. Scout’s org.
48. Chop
49. Relative
50. Follower
54. Also
55. Suffocate
57. Sincere
59. Breccia
60. Shrubs or small trees of the genus Rhus; “poison” plant
61. Actress Hudson

DOWN

62. Dollops
1. Uppermost part of an elm
2. Ret. fund
3. ___ of passage
4. Days before
5. Atoll
6. American naval officer and explorer Richard
7. Frozen water
8. Native American people formerly inhabiting parts of Ohio Valley
9. Murder She Wrote’s Landsbury
10. Guarantee
11. To whom monies are paid; employees



Oct. 28 answers

12. Pirate Teach; “Blackbeard”
13. RQ-4 Global Hawk and RQ-1 Predator
15. High-pitched barks
18. Dined
24. Ancient Semitic fertility, nature gods; Biblical false gods
25. Towing need
26. Native American people formerly inhabiting Great Plains
27. USAF aircrew training requirement
30. Goodbye, in a fashion
32. Measurement weight
35. Native peoples inhabiting North American Arctic coastal regions
36. Native American people formerly inhabiting U.S. Pacific Northwest
37. Drill again
38. Asserts
39. Native people once inhabiting central, southern Mexico
40. Nike symbol; make a rushing sound
41. Queries
43. Donkey
45. Observe
50. A single, double, or triple in baseball (two words)
51. Tennis great Sampras
52. Celebrate
53. Writer Bombeck
56. Mil. pay during PCS
58. Capture a crook

On your face!



Photo by 2nd Lt. Candace Cutrufo

“We work on every body part, (and) every major muscle group,” said Alicia Ferris-Dannenberg (left), Whiteman’s fitness program manager, during an extreme fitness class at the fitness center Tuesday. Extreme fitness is one of several classes available at the fitness center.

Whiteman aerobics schedule

Mondays

- 3 p.m.— B-2 Bike Club in the spinning room.
- 4:15 p.m.— Cardio X in Falcon Gym.
- 5:15 p.m.— Core Strength in Falcon Gym.
- 8 p.m.— Cardio Kickbox in Falcon Gym.

Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.— Pilates in Falcon Gym.
- 11:30 a.m.— Extreme Fitness in Falcon Gym.
- 4:30 p.m.— Cycle in the spinning room.
- 6 p.m.— Cardio X in Falcon Gym.
- 6:15 p.m.— Yoga in the spinning room.

Wednesdays

- 6:45 a.m.— Cycle in the spinning room.
- 3 p.m.—B-2 Bike Club in the spinning room.
- 5:15 p.m.— Cycle in the spinning room and core strength in Falcon Gym.

Thursdays

- 9 a.m.— Pilates in Falcon Gym.
- 11:30 a.m.— Extreme Fitness in Falcon Gym.
- 4:30 p.m.— Cycle in the spinning room.
- 8 p.m.— Cardio Kickbox in Falcon Gym.

Fridays

- 3 p.m.— B-2 Bike Club in the spinning room.



Services Page editor.....Poppy Arthurton
509th Services Squadron.....687-7929
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation



Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Squadron wall climbing competition

Squadrons looking for an indoor fitness activity should sign up for the annual wall climbing competition running until April 1, 2006. Any active duty, reservist, DoD civilian or retiree working in a squadron is eligible to be part of their squadron's team. Teams should register at outdoor recreation, and get climbing.

The aim is to record the highest number of climbs with prizes going to any individual who achieves the mile-high standard as well as the best teams.

There is no limit to the number of individuals in a squadron's team. The cost is \$5 per participant. All climbers must be certified at an outdoor recreation class.

Contact outdoor recreation for more details or to arrange a team certification class.

Dutch oven cooking

Learn how to cook breakfast, lunch or dinner in a dutch oven. The class takes place 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Nov. 12. Recipes will be shared. Demonstrations include breakfast omelet, chili, pizza and cobbler. The cost is \$5 per person.



Fitness Center 687-5496

5K food bank run

Get ready for the holiday season by burning a few calories with a 5K run. The run starts at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 18. Entry fee is a non-perishable Thanksgiving food item, which will go toward the First Sergeants' group's Operation Warm Heart.



Information and Tickets 687-5565

Entertainment coupon books

Coupon books for Kansas City and Branson, Mo., are now available from tickets and travel. Stop by their new location in the outdoor recreation facility.

Great American race weekend

Discount tickets available to the Hershey's Kissables 300 on Feb. 18 and Daytona 500 on Feb. 19. Packages start at \$102.25 with Nextel Fanzone passes available for \$75. Tickets available now through Dec. 23. Stop by for more details.

Food & Fun



Mission's End 687-4422

Variety night

Party at Mission's End 8 p.m.-midnight Saturday. A disc jockey will play your favorites, rock, pop, top 40 or country.

Member appreciation lunch

Club members can enjoy a pasta lunch for \$2, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday at Mission's End. See club staff for membership information.

Comedy night

Fresh from shows in Las Vegas, Pasadena and Pittsburgh, Todd Paul will be putting on his stand up show at Mission's End 8 p.m. Nov. 18. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers before Nov. 17 and \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers on the day of the show.

Community Activities



Arts and Crafts Center 687-5691

Stained glass supplies sale

Receive 20 percent off all stained glass supplies during November at the arts and crafts center.

Stained glass panel class

The stained glass panel class meets 6-9 p.m. every Thursday at the arts and crafts center. The class is open to beginners through advanced participants, sign ups are ongoing and the class lasts six weeks. The cost is \$45, which does not include supplies.

Etched glass Christmas ornament class

Learn a new skill with a three-hour class 6-9 p.m. Nov. 10 at the arts and crafts center. Participants will use stencils and liquid etch to create up to four tree ornaments or gifts. The class costs \$12 including supplies.



Child Development Center 687-5588

Drop-in care

The child development center can provide drop-in child care for all ages on a space available basis for \$3 per hour.

Child care and program places

The Tuesday and Thursday morning developmental enrichment pre-school program has openings for 3- to 5-year-olds. There are also several openings for full-time care for 3- to 5-year-olds. Contact the child development center for more details.



Youth Center 687-5586

Turkey shoot

Shoot the most hoops and win a turkey. Participants will be divided into four categories by age and asked to shoot a hoop from various positions on court. There is a frozen turkey for the winner of each category. The competition takes place 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the youth center.

Kids night out Thanksgiving party

Children ages 6-9 can get together with friends before the holidays to enjoy the food, games, movies and activities offered by the youth center. The party starts 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18 and costs \$8 for members and \$10 for nonmembers. Sign ups start Nov. 14.

Teen Center 687-5819

Club Tech

Club Tech offers the chance for teens to learn and practice Web site design, newsletter layouts and computer languages. These skills are becoming more and more important to employers so this is a good chance to get ahead of the competition. The club meets 5-6 p.m. Mondays during November.

Keystone club

Keystone club meets 6-7 p.m. every Tuesday at the teen center. Teens can get involved in planning, organizing and coordinating the programs that they enjoy.



Community Center 687-5617

Songs from the soul of service

All amateur song writers on active duty in the U.S. military are invited to submit a self-penned song in any style to the Dallas Songwriters Association for entry into a service-wide contest. Songs will be judged on lyrics, structure, emotional impact, originality and creativity, not song production standard. Songs must be submitted before Dec. 1. Contact the community center for details.

An afternoon at the USO

Spend an afternoon at Warrensburg Veterans' Home, meeting and entertaining the veterans. Volunteers to sing, dance or otherwise perform are needed as are individuals to assist veterans, serve refreshments and distribute gifts. Contact the community center to help.

Pen pals across the world

The community center will be matching up children ages 6-14 with suitable pen pals at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 12. Write a letter and make a christmas card for a new friend and enjoy a movie afterward. The event is free.



Family Child Care 687-1180

Want a profitable home-based career?

Providers are needed to provide care for the following: evenings, weekends, swing shift workers, infants, special needs and mildly ill children. The Air Force is now offering a subsidy for providers who are willing to meet these critical needs. Providers who hold a standard license are subsidized \$125 a week per qualifying child. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted.

Family child care orientation class

Receive training to become a family child care provider 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 14-18. Providers with chronic health problems are accepted. Pick up a registration package from the family child care office by Nov. 10.



Library 687-6217

Information and research assistance

The base library staff can help you with your research needs. Stop by, call or e-mail your question to library@whitemanafblibrary.org.

Air Force library and information

Visit www.whitemanafblibrary.org to access electronic resources from the Air Force Library and Information System. The system has more than 70 online databases supporting the Air Force mission, professional and voluntary education and quality of life for the entire Whiteman community.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

Winter pet care

Cold weather can be hard on pets as well as people. Owners should not leave pets outside for extended periods of time as their animals are as accustomed to the warm shelter of indoors as owners themselves are. Forcing pets to stay outside puts them at risk of serious illness. Contact the vet clinic for winter pet safety tips.

Movie Schedule

Friday

The Exorcism of Emily Rose
7 p.m. PG-13
Starring- Laura Linney and Tom Wilkinson

Saturday

Corpse Bride
7 p.m. PG-13
Starring- Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter

Sunday

Flightplan
5 p.m. PG-13
Starring- Jodie Foster and Peter Sarsgaard

Adults: \$3.50 Children: \$1.75
Movie Recording Line: 687-5110

Movies subject to change due to availability.
For current and future movie listings logon to
http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm.